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Strategies to strengthen European linguistic capital in a globalised world

MultiLX Training Meeting 3

University of Turin



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MultiLX Training Meeting 3

MultiLX 2025

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Arts-based methods for multilingual research and inclusive policy

Turin, 20–21 November 2025

1. Introduction

The *MultiLX* project’s meeting “Arts-based methods for multilingual research and inclusive policy” took place in Turin on 20–21 November 2025, in an atmosphere marked by a sense of mutual recognition and growing familiarity. Unlike the inaugural meeting in Warwick – defined by novelty and the tentative curiosity of beginnings – the gathering in Turin brought together a group that had developed a stronger sense of belonging. Many participants described arriving “less nervous”, feeling “more themselves”, and experiencing genuine joy at reconnecting with colleagues whose ways of working, talking, and being had become increasingly familiar over the months.

The programme unfolded across two dense days, combining theoretical inputs, creative workshops, methodological sessions, mentoring, exchanges with local stakeholders, and cross–case study discussions. What struck many participants, however, was the quality of the human interactions: spontaneous conversations in the corridors, evening walks through the illuminated streets of the city, long and convivial dinners, and personal exchanges naturally intertwined with professional dialogue. In these informal moments, the group strengthened a shared sense of ease and trust. Participants described the environment as one in which they could bring not only their academic identities but also emotional experiences, vulnerabilities, and personal narratives.

Reflections emphasised that the meeting offered rich opportunities to deepen interpersonal connections, to recognise and value linguistic and cultural differences, and to build transversal relationships across teams, facilitated by the attentiveness and communicative generosity that characterised the interactions.



Photo 1: MultiLX’s badge and bag (© Edina Krompák; 20.11.2025)



Photo 2: Participants descending Via Sant’Ottavio, Turin (© Sîdar Bayram Orhan; 21.11.2025)

2. Theoretical-methodological input and beyond

An important part of the meeting was devoted to artistic and participatory methodologies. Melissa Moralli’s keynote provided a powerful framework for understanding activism as a relational, political, and transformative practice. Participants reflected on creativity as a form of listening, a

means of building connections with communities, and a way of integrating care, ethics, and responsibility into fieldwork. Many reported that the keynote articulated ideas and intuitions already emerging in their work, offering new perspectives on how creatively grounded and socially engaged methodologies might inform the next phase of the project.

Nicole Brown’s keynote introduced a moment of critical introspection by highlighting the risks of the “participation trap”: the tendency to label practices as participatory when they involve participants only superficially. The discussion prompted deep questions about what authentic participation entails, about the material and emotional conditions that make it possible, and about how to avoid extractive or unsustainable forms of engagement – particularly when working with young people, who often face pressures on time, energy, and emotional capacity.

Alongside these theoretical-methodological inputs, the meeting also offered spaces for substantial discussion across case studies. These sessions were described as particularly lively and intellectually stimulating. A highlight was the collective analysis of data from the Swiss case study, which clearly demonstrated how different theoretical orientations produce distinct interpretations of the same material.

Participants noted the richness generated by the encounter of diverse epistemological perspectives and recognised that the value of MultiLX lies not only in the distributed nature of the research but also in its capacity to bring these perspectives together. Many expressed the desire to devote more time to such collaborative analytic work in future meetings.

The meeting also included moments of mentoring across research sites. Although one mentoring arrangement had to be temporarily suspended, there is the intention to resume it online. Reflections emphasised not only the importance of these mentoring relationships but also the need to ensure greater visibility and participation for junior members of the project, enabling them to contribute more actively to plenary discussions and to gain confidence within the consortium.

3. Artistic workshop and languaging

Creative activities included a drama workshop, which elicited a wide range of reactions. Some participants experienced it as a moment of embodied connection and non-verbal exploration, appreciating the facilitator’s skill and the opportunity to engage with expressive modes not usually present in academic settings. Others found the experience more challenging, either because of the degree of personal exposure it required or because of a lower level of comfort with this type of activity.

Reflections nevertheless converged on the importance of reintroducing the body into academic spaces, seeing the workshop as a valuable opportunity to broaden the ways in which people participate and show up within the group.



Photos 3: MultiLX team members performing a scene using “Theatre of the Oppressed” methods during Alessandra Vannucci’s workshop (© Marta Lupica Spagnolo; 21.11.2025)

This atmosphere of familiarity intersected with the continuous presence of multiple languages. The spontaneous use of Italian, English, Catalan, Spanish, German, French, Albanian, Finnish, and others meant that multilingualism was not only a research topic but a lived practice. During breaks, group work, and even formal discussions, this linguistic plurality opened spaces of recognition, revealed previously hidden identity dimensions, and encouraged new connections.

Reflections noted that moving across languages enabled participants to narrate themselves differently, to renegotiate meanings, and to access diverse ways of relating. This highlighted how multilingualism shapes not only the field sites under study but also the internal dynamics of the research collective.

3. Language policies and impact

Engagement with the local context further enriched the meeting. During a roundtable, we had the opportunity to exchange ideas with Prince Dengha (Mosaico – Action for Refugees), Marco Ciari (Torino Creativa ‘Creative Turin’), and Giorgio Guiot (Fondazione Cantabile ‘Cantabile Foundation’). The roundtable aimed to showcase existing initiatives in Turin related to the project’s core themes – art, multilingualism, and young people – and to begin exploring, even if only preliminarily, how the results of the MultiLX project might be translated into concrete language policies.

In the first part of the roundtable, the organisations presented their activities and shared several projects related to art, youth engagement, and mobility. For example, Torino Creativa supports street art initiatives, where the artistic mediums help participants transcend linguistic and national boundaries. Mosaico runs the scholarship *Ai miei sogni non rinuncio* “I won’t give up on my dreams”, which is dedicated to young refugee artists. Also, the experiences of multilingual choirs in Turin and other Italian cities were discussed, which not only promote language learning but also encourage “active citizenship” by making the target language “singable” and fostering social bonds.

The second part consisted of an open conversation with our three guests and the MultiLX team members. It became clear that these associations are strongly rooted in the local context, often operating in semi-public urban spaces and committed to making grassroots activities visible to and transformative for local communities. As one participant noted, “creativity requires expressive spaces, both physical and virtual: places where it can be shared”. At the same time, these associations maintain connections with other projects at the national and international levels. This combination makes their experiences particularly valuable for enhancing the impact of the MultiLX project in Turin, while also being potentially transferable across different case-study cities.



Photo 4: Stakeholders at the round table (© Sîdar Bayram Orhan; 21.11.2025)

4. Conclusion

Taken together, the reflections highlight several questions that will guide the next phase of the project: how to maintain a form of participation that is both authentic and sustainable; how to adapt artistic methodologies with sensitivity to different contexts; how to treat internal multilingualism as a methodological resource rather than merely an object of study; how to create structured opportunities for comparative, cross-site data analysis; and how to support the development and visibility of junior colleagues.

Overall, the meeting in Turin represented a significant milestone in the trajectory of MultiLX. It enabled the consolidation of the group, the deepening of interpersonal relationships, the exploration of creative and participatory approaches, and critical reflection on the project's methodological directions.

The combination of human connection, theoretical insight, creative practices, and engagement with the local context produced a rich and generative experience. The project emerges from this meeting strengthened, more self-aware, and more united in its diversity as it moves into the next phase of its work.



Photo 5: Participants in the Workshop (© MultiLX team, 21.11.2025)

Appendix 1: MultiLX Participants in Workshop “Arts-based methods for multilingual research and inclusive policy”, Turin 20–21 November 2025

Lindita Bakii, Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern / University of Teacher Education Lucerne

Şilan Beyazdaş, Universität Freiburg / University of Freiburg

Adrian Blackledge, University of Warwick

Katharina Brizić, Universität Freiburg / University of Freiburg

Angela Creese, University of Warwick

Victor Corona, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya / Open University of Catalonia

Mehdi Jafarzadeh, Universität Freiburg / University of Freiburg

Helen Kelly-Holmes, Ollscoil Luimnigh / University of Limerick

Edina Krompák, Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern / University of Teacher Education Lucerne

Marta Lupica Spagnolo, Università di Torino / University of Turin

Jai Mackenzie, University of Warwick

Gerardo Mazzaferro, Università di Torino / University of Turin

Sidar Bayram Orhan, Universität Freiburg / University of Freiburg

Bernadette O'Rourke, Oilthigh Ghlaschu / University of Glasgow

Cecilia Paulsson, University of Warwick

Maite Puigdevall, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya / Open University of Catalonia

Joan Pujolar Cos, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya / Open University of Catalonia

Mark Ryan, Ollscoil Luimnigh / University of Limerick

Clara Seitz, Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern / University of Teacher Education Lucerne

M Seppola Simonsen, Universitetet i Oslo / University of Oslo

Pascal Schmidt, Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern / University of Teacher Education Lucerne

Victoria Wasner, Pädagogische Hochschule Luzern / University of Teacher Education Lucerne

Vida Colliander, Universitetet i Oslo / University of Oslo

Appendix 2: Invitees

Nicole Brown

Marco Ciari

Prince Dengha

Giorgio Guiot

Melissa Moralli

Alessandra Vannucci

Appendix 3: Programme

MultiLX Workshop – Programme

Day 1 – Thursday, 20 November

09:00 – Welcome and Introduction

Location: Sala Lauree

Gerardo Mazzaferro and Marta Lupica Spagnolo

09:15 – Creative Resistance: Exploring Migration through Arts-Based Methods and Activism

Speaker: Melissa Moralli

Location: Sala Lauree

Gerardo Mazzaferro

10:15 – Project Management and Coordination Update (WP1)

Speakers: Angela Creese

Location: Sala Lauree

Marta Lupica Spagnolo

10:45 – Coffee Break

Location: GreenWood – Concept Food & Lounge

11:15 – Supervision and Research Mentoring (WP2)

Speaker: Edina Krompák and Bakii Lindita

Location: Sala Lauree

Gerardo Mazzaferro

13:00–14:00 – Lunch

Location: GreenWood – Concept Food & Lounge

14:30–16:00 – Case Studies in Dialogue

Chairs: Adrian Blackledge and Angela Creese

Location: Sala Lauree

Gerardo Mazzaferro

16:00–16:30 – Coffee Break

Location: GreenWood – Concept Food & Lounge

16:30–17:00 – Case Studies in Dialogue

Chairs: Adrian Blackledge and Angela Creese

Location: Sala Lauree

Gerardo Mazzaferro

20:00 – Dinner

Location: Trattoria Piemontese

Day 2 – Friday, 21 November

09:00 – Giving Voice to the Unheard: Participatory and Arts-Based Approaches for Inclusive Multilingual Research

Speaker: Nicole Brown

Location: Sala Lauree

Marta Lupica Spagnolo

10:00 – Coffee Break

Location: GreenWood – Concept Food & Lounge

10:45-11:15 Art, Communication and Multilingualism (WP5)

Location: Sala Lauree

Speaker: Adrian Blackledge (TBC)

11.30 – 12.45 Practical and Formative Workshop

Location: Aula T20, Via S. Ottavio, 54

Alessandra Vannucci

13:00 – Lunch

Location: GreenWood – Concept Food & Lounge

14:30-15.45 Round Table: Impact, Communication and Policy Recommendations

Location: Sala Lauree

Gerardo Mazzaferro and Marta Lupica Spagnolo

15:45-15.55 – Closing

Location: Sala Lauree

Gerardo Mazzaferro and Marta Lupica Spagnolo

16:00 – Coffee Break

Location: GreenWood – Concept Food & Lounge